

The Double and the Mutable Publicness

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Fold One: Architecture is where redundant and simple construction, in thinking and in material reality, takes shape. But architecture is paradoxical: Architecture inherently contains contested dualities brought together into a difficult whole. This whole is a place of constant tension between competing forces within the discipline - program, sequence, form, tectonic, etc. - on one hand, and vital forces surrounding the discipline - context, content, culture, climate, etc.- on the other.

Fold Two: This studio explores this contention through the notion of “The Double”. The Double is a competing presence occupying the territory of the subject. It is dependent on its subject, but also independent of the subject’s grasp. The double is paradoxical. The Double is simultaneously the self and the self’s inverse contained within one body.

Preamble

This brief is a vehicle of paradox: two separate and complete typologies which exist within the same body. This new whole operates as the architectural project and its double; not identical, not symmetrical, but a related and inseparable pair. Each project will be an interpretation of a live-work commune for participants bigger than a normative nuclear family but much smaller and more intertwined than a building complex. The typological components and systematic requirements of such dwelling remain homogenous across the studio; however, details of specificities are unique to each student and the driving narrative as a parameter for the design evaluation. The ambition is to create a harmonized state of paradox between the architecture and its contextual entanglements, exhibiting simultaneous divergence and convergence, of mutualism and antagonism.

For the purpose of this brief, we will examine the nature of these relationships through the lens of reciprocity between disciplinary components and the surrounding forces. Each student will be challenged to re-think and re-imagine the interface between the building and a varied definition of ‘publics’ and publicness and will design potential combinations and permutations of the relationships of the given components. The function, size, and proportion of these components will determine the degree to which they are mutable.